

## R E M A R K S

A new and more descriptive title has been provided, in response to the Examiner's objection. Claim 6 has been amended to include a recital such that a shallow groove is present between two deep pre-pits. Since this Amendment does not increase either the total number of claims or the number of independent claims, no additional fee is necessary.

Claims 1 - 15 are in the application. Of these, claims 1 - 5 and 10 - 15 have been allowed; claims 6, 8 and 9 have been rejected; and claim 7 has been indicated to be allowable if rewritten in independent form.

With reference to the rejection of claims 6, 8 and 9 under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as anticipated by Nakajima et al., applicants respectfully submit that there is a structural difference between the present invention (as defined in amended claim 6) and Nakajima et al.

In the medium of Nakajima et al., a pit area having a depth of Dsp is present between a pit area having a depth of Ddp and a groove area having a depth of Dg, wherein the following relationships are satisfied:

$$Dg < \lambda/(8n), \lambda/(8n) < Ddp < \lambda/(4n), Dg \leq Dsp < Ddp.$$

Namely, the deep pit and shallow pit are separated from each other by an area having a plurality of pits. This is described in col. 6, lines 60-63, and col. 10, lines 6-19 and Fig. 7 of Nakajima. In contrast, in the medium of the present invention only one shallow pit is present between two deep pits.

Further, there is an operational difference between the invention defined in amended claim 6 and Nakajima et al.

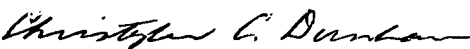
When the medium of Nakajima et al. is subjected to servo tracking, switching from the push pull servo tracking at the groove area to the DPD servo tracking can be smoothly performed because the area including a plurality of pits serves as a buffer. Therefore, good push pull signals and DPD signals satisfying both the servo tracking, result in imparting good tracking stabilization to the medium.

In the medium of the present invention, the push pull servo tracking can be stably performed and in addition characteristics of the wobble signals can be improved in the pit area as well as the groove area. This is not disclosed in Nakajima et al.


It is therefore further submitted that amended claim 6, and claims 8 and 9 dependent thereon, are not anticipated by Nakajima et al. but distinguish patentably thereover. The allowability of amended claim 6 is also submitted to obviate rewriting dependent claim 7 in independent form.

For the foregoing reasons, it is believed that this application is now in condition for allowance. Favorable action thereon is accordingly courteously requested.

Respectfully,

  
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I hereby certify that this paper is being deposited this date with the U.S. Postal Service as first class mail addressed to Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

  
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